

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please replace the claims as filed with the telefax on 16 December 2003 with the following:

1. (Original from claims in 16 December 2003 telefax) An electrical connector (10), comprising:

a dielectric housing (12) having a receptacle (24) for receiving a complementary mating connector (62);

a plurality of conductive terminals (40) mounted on the housing and having contact portions (40a) exposed in the receptacle for engaging appropriate contacts (66) of the mating connector;

a metal shell (14) about at least a portion of the housing;

a shutter plate (32) movably mounted on the housing for movement between a closed position substantially closing said receptacle to prevent inadvertent engagement of foreign objects with the contact portions of the terminals and an open position allowing mating of said complementary mating connector, at least a portion (50) of the shutter plate being conductive to dissipate static electricity at the receptacle; and

at least one spring (30) mounted on the housing for biasing the shutter plate toward its closed position, the spring being conductive and electrically coupled between the conductive portion of the shutter plate and the metal shell to ground the plate to the shell;

characterized in that

said spring comprises a coil spring (30) having opposite ends (30b,30c) maintained in engagement with the conductive portion (50) of the shutter plate and the metal shell (14).

2. (Original from claims in 16 December 2003 telefax) The electrical connector of claim 1 wherein said shutter plate (32) is elongated, and including a pair of said coil springs (30) located at opposite ends of the elongated shutter plate.

3. (Original from claims in 16 December 2003 telefax) The electrical connector of claim 1 wherein said shutter plate (32) includes a dielectric core (48) and said conductive portion of the shutter plate comprises a metal cover (50) over at least part of the dielectric core.

4. (Amended from claims in 16 December 2003 telefax) The electrical connector of claim ~~4~~3 wherein said dielectric core (48) of the shutter plate includes an inside face (48a) which faces the contact portions (40a) of the terminals (40).

5. (Original from claims in 16 December 2003 telefax) The electrical connector of claim 1 wherein at least one of said terminals is provided as a ground terminal (40A) and is in engagement with the conductive portion (50) of the shutter plate, thereby coupling the ground terminal, via the conductive spring (30), to the metal shell (14).

6. (Amended from claims in 16 December 2003 telefax) The electrical connector of claim ~~6~~ 5 wherein said conductive portion (50) of the shutter plate (32) includes a foot (54) extending into engagement with said at least one ground terminal (40A).